

Coastal Fisheries Protection Act

\$10 a month it makes a \$1 million facility unusable for about 18 hours a day.

I can give another example of the nonsense in the fishing industry.

Mr. Evans: Please do not.

Mr. Crosby: The Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) is enjoying this. He will not believe this but he has to lay the blame with his Government. Let me tell him about the sword-fishing industry.

Mr. Evans: I am just wondering what it has to do with the Bill.

Mr. Crosby: Sambro in the federal constituency of Halifax West is a beautiful place. People think of Peggy's Cove, but there are many coves and inlets on the coast of St. Margaret's Bay that may not be the equal of Peggy's Cove, but are very close to it. I am talking about places like Herring Cove and Sambro. They are beautiful. You can take wonderful pictures and show them to your friends. However, that is the tourist industry. I am talking about the fishing industry.

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Sambro is a fishing community right on the Atlantic Ocean near the great Port of Halifax. Most of the fishermen were swordfishermen who had approximately 90 per cent of this one-time multimillion dollar swordfishing industry right in the village of Sambro. However, what happened was that someone, probably from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, obtained a piece of swordfish and decided there was mercury in swordfish. People asked what mercury was and did not know whether the fish was supposed to contain mercury.

To make a long story short, swordfishing was banned. The Government said that swordfish would not be allowed to be consumed in Canada. That was the end of the business for the swordfishermen. However, they hung in there because it was possible to sell the same swordfish that was not allowed into Canada to the United States. We all know that Americans are different and can eat a lot of mercury without getting sick while Canadians are weak and have to be careful!

Residents of the United States continued to utilize the swordfish. Although Canadians were the ones with the ability to catch the swordfish, the Americans wanted to buy the fish only from American fishermen. They would not buy Canadian fish when Canadians would not eat it, they would catch their own fish. Consequently Canadian fishermen caught the fish, sold it to the Americans who then brought it into the United States. The Government did not want that to happen so it passed a law saying that American fishermen had to catch the swordfish and could not bring the fish into Canada if they went to a Canadian port. This is what the Americans were doing. They simply sailed their boats to the Canadian ports to buy the swordfish and brought it back to the United States. In effect, they were running a transportation business instead of a fishing business. The Government stopped that procedure.

This problem has been solved and we can now catch and consume swordfish. However, the market has been destroyed in the meantime and people have forgotten about eating swordfish. Furthermore, they have the belief that something is wrong with swordfish. The industry is not flourishing as it once did. One only has to look at the swordfishing industry if one does not believe there is a connection between what happens on the coast in terms of the fishing industry and marketing of fish products and government policy that is administered by government officials.

Let me just add one sour note to that discussion. Some Nova Scotia fishermen who continued to try and survive in the swordfishing industry after being confronted with these regulations were in the position of violating American regulations that were similar to our Coastal Fisheries Protection Act. They were ultimately fined thousands of dollars and threatened with jail terms in the United States. That is the kind of crime we are talking about in this area. It was a crime to sell swordfish to another person. Who would have thought that people would go to jail in a western democracy for selling swordfish to another person by simply putting it on the market for consumption quite legally? That is an example of the sort of difficulties we experience in the fishing industry.

If there is any doubt that this legislation has a very practical application, members need only recall the tuna war on the West Coast. The argument concerned the pursuit of tuna. Tuna migrate from Japan right across the Pacific Rim. At some point Canadians had the idea that the fish that swam by was theirs and did not belong to the person who had chased it for 2,000 miles. This ultimately led to a fish war and to a downturn in the tuna industry.

St. Margaret's Bay in the federal constituency of Halifax West, which I am proud to represent in the Parliament of Canada, has something that westerners would not believe. There is a corral in the middle of that Bay in which there are tuna. Tuna are caught and put into that submarine corral as babies. When they are mature and healthy they are taken to the Halifax International Airport, loaded on a plane and shipped to Tokyo within 48 hours, where that tuna fish sell for \$10 or \$121 or more an ounce. That is an aspect of the fishing industry that people do not even realize. Those who think that the Atlantic fishery merely consists of people who jump into boats, throw out a net and return to port just do not understand the industry.

The future of the Atlantic fishery lies in quality production and international marketing. When it is possible to get up to \$20 an ounce in Tokyo for a fish that was raised in St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia, it makes for a rather interesting industry. In light of that, one might ask why not raise 2,000 tuna fish rather than 200? The answer is that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will not permit it. The tuna may swim by but they cannot be taken.

Mr. Waddell: They want some for next year.

Mr. Crosby: That is a reasonable point. They want some to swim by next year. However, the fishermen are saying that